

Attorney Docket No. 01374-294  
IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Roberts and Betses  
Serial No.: 10/816,452  
Filed: March 31, 2004  
For: SYSTEM AND METHODS FOR PROVIDING PHARMACY SERVICES

Examiner: Neal Sereboff  
Art Unit: 3626

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT AND  
PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Sir:

Responsive to the Restriction Requirement the Office issued in the above referenced patent application, Applicants submit herewith this response to the Restriction Requirement. In addition, Applicants also submit herewith a Preliminary Amendment of the elected claims and respectfully request entrance of the amended claims into the record before examination of the instant application on its merits.

Restriction Requirement. The Restriction Requirement indicates that Claims 1-50, 81, and 82 (Group I) are directed to predicting prescription pick up time and constitute a distinct invention from the invention of Claims 51-80, 83, and 84 (Group II) directed to determining persons required at each skill level. The Restriction Requirement requests that Applicants elect one group of claims. Applicants hereby elect without traverse Group I claims, including Claims 1-50, 81, and 82, for prosecution, and cancel Group II claims, including Claims 51-80, 83, and 84, in view of this election of Group I claims.

Claim Amendments. As provided below, Applicants respectfully request preliminary amendment of Claims 1-50, 81, and 82, and entrance of the amendments into the record before examination of the claims. Claim amendments begin on page 2 and Remarks being on page 18.